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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,494	09/24/2003	Che-Hsiung Hsu	PE0688 US NA	3970

23906 7590 03/20/2007
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4417 LANCASTER PIKE
WILMINGTON, DE 19805

EXAMINER

KOPEC, MARK T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,494

Applicant(s)

HSU ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Kopec

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-10, 37, 54, 58 and 59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-10, 37, 54, 58 and 59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/05/07 has been entered.

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 37, 54, 58 and 59 are currently pending.

The Terminal Disclaimer (copending Application No(s). 11/165,158; 10/802,704; 10/814,917; 10/803,114; and 10/802,138) is entered.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over EP 0593111.

This rejection is maintained for the reasons set forth in the Rejection mailed 01/11/06 (Pages 5-6).

Note that pending claims 1-4, 8-10, 54, 58 and 59 are allowed over this reference. With respect to instant claim 37, which is not limited to fluorinated polymeric sulfonic acids, the examiner respectfully submits that the addition of additional conductive materials to the claimed

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polydioxothiophene/colloid-forming polymeric acid would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. See, for example, U.S. 2004/0010115 (para 0058), which clearly teaches the addition of "other electroactive polymers, etc" to polythiophene compositions. Such does not patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 37, 54, 58 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pickup et al (Electronically conducting cation-exchange polymer...).

This rejection is maintained for the reasons set forth in the Rejection mailed 01/11/06 (Pages 6-7).

Applicant's arguments filed 03/05/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the PEDOT/NAFION materials disclosed in Pickup are in powder form (as opposed to the claimed aqueous dispersion), and that solvent/water mixtures are not required in the instant claims (response p.7).

The examiner respectfully submits Pickup clearly discloses each of the claimed limitations. Section 3.1 discloses formation of PEDOT/NAFION by chemical polymerization of monomer in the presence of polyanion (in water), and specifically discloses "PEDOT/NAFION appears to be gel0like with no discrete

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particles" (page 23). The process appears to be the identical to the process disclosed by applicant in the inventive examples (chemical polymerization of monomer in the presence of polyanion). The reference may subsequently form powder composites from the aqueous dispersions, but clearly discloses the claimed "aqueous dispersion". Also, while the instant claims do not require the presence of organic solvent, they do not preclude the presence of such. In fact, the instant specification defines "aqueous" as "at least about 40% water" (page 4).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Kopec whose telephone number is (571) 272-1319. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas McGinty can be reached on (571) 272-1029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Mark Kopec
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751

MK

March 15, 2007